

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

LET ME BEGIN BY WELCOMING CHAIRWOMAN REBECA SOSA...

COMMISSIONER BRUNO BARREIRO...

OUR CLERK OF COURTS MR. HARVEY RUVIN...

OUR TAX COLLECTOR MARCUS SAIZ DE LA MORA...

AND FROM THE CITY OF MIAMI, C.F.O. FERNANDO CASAMAYOR.

ALSO, A BIG THANK YOU TO FATHER EDDY ALVAREZ FROM THE HISTORIC GESU CHURCH HERE IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI.

WE'VE READ IN THE GOSPELS THAT JESUS BEFRIENDED THE TAX COLLECTORS...

SO WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE.

WELCOME TO YOU ALL, AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AS WE OPEN THE BRAND NEW MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

THERE'S THAT OLD SAYING FROM BEN FRANKLIN ABOUT HOW "IN THIS WORLD NOTHING CAN BE SAID TO BE CERTAIN, EXCEPT DEATH AND TAXES."

THAT CERTAINLY DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCE WITH THE TAX COLLECTOR CAN'T BE A PLEASANT ONE!

ACTUALLY, THE ROLE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR IS A VERY IMPORTANT ONE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THIS OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING OVER \$4 BILLION A YEAR IN REAL ESTATE TAXES, LOCAL BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS, CONVENTION AND TOURIST TAXES AND AUTO TAG FEES.

JUST THINK, THE TAXES FOR OVER 950,000 PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE, 175,000 LOCAL BUSINESSES AND 2.3 MILLION VEHICLES, VESSELS AND MOBILE HOMES, ARE ALL COLLECTED FROM THIS OFFICE.

IT'S A BIG JOB, AND NOW MARCUS AND HIS TEAM WILL HAVE A BRAND NEW OFFICE FROM WHERE TO PROVIDE EVEN BETTER CUSTOMER SERVICE.

THIS NEW OFFICE LOCATION IS REALLY AN EXAMPLE OF THE MIXED-USE PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY DOWNTOWN WE ARE ALL WORKING TO ACHIEVE.

BESIDES FUNCTIONING AS A PARKING GARAGE, THE LOWER LEVEL OF THIS BUILDING WILL HOUSE THIS GOVERNMENT SERVICE ALONG WITH OTHER BUSINESSES.

THIS PROMOTES COMMON SENSE MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT, MAKING IT EASIER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO ACCESS THE SERVICES OF THIS OFFICE.

AND, IT'S FITTING THAT THE OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING THE "GREEN" IS IN A "GREEN BUILDING" ITSELF.

THIS IS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTY BUILDINGS TO ACHIEVE A GOLD LEED STATUS, AND GOING GREEN MEANS WE SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY.

THIS BUILDING WILL SAVE AN ESTIMATED \$15,000 EACH YEAR BY INCORPORATING ALL SORTS OF EFFICIENCY MEASURES SUCH AS A DAYLIGHT HARVESTING SYSTEM THAT LOWERS ELECTRICITY USE.

ALSO, BECAUSE NO ONE LIKES TO WAIT IN LINE AT A GOVERNMENT OFFICE, THE FIRST FLOOR IS DESIGNED TO SERVE CUSTOMERS WITH IMPROVED SPEED AND EFFICIENCY.

THIS OFFICE NOW HAS A STATE-OF-THE-ART QUEUING SYSTEM THAT WILL HELP MOVE CUSTOMERS MORE QUICKLY, ALLOW AGENTS TO ANSWER CUSTOMER INQUIRIES DIRECTLY, AND PROCESS PAYMENTS MORE EFFICIENTLY.

THIS ALL COMES TOGETHER TO MAKE EVEN A TRIP TO THE TAX COLLECTOR A MORE PLEASANT EXPERIENCE FOR OUR RESIDENTS.

AS ALWAYS, OUR COUNTY TEAM HAS DONE A GREAT JOB IN GETTING THIS PROJECT FINISHED.

LET ME THANK THE DIRECTOR OF OUR INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, LESTER SOLA, AND HIS DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES TEAM: MONICA VIENER, INTERIOR DESIGNER, AND MARC LAFRANCE, CONSTRUCTION MANAGER.

ALSO, THANK YOU TO MARCUS AND HIS TEAM: PETER CAM, ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR AND GEOVANY DUMAS, I.T. SYSTEMS MANAGER.

THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS, AND THE EFFORTS OF EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT, OUR RESIDENTS WILL HAVE A FASTER, BETTER, AND MORE PLEASANT EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY VISIT.

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE DELIVER GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

OUR RESIDENTS DESERVE THE VERY BEST FROM US...

AND THROUGH THIS AND OTHER INITIATIVES...

WE ALL CONTINUE WORKING TO MAKE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACE FOR ALL WE SERVE.

THANK YOU!

